

Masturbatory Excess

August 2-8, 1987

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**Coming out
center stage
to march on
Washington**



DC-ACTIVE!

GayCommunityNews

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August 2-8, 1987

This Is Our Stage: The March on Washington

"This is going to be one of the largest marches on Washington ever — maybe the biggest since the anti-war demonstrations of the late '60s and early '70s. It will be measured in hundreds of thousands."

—Steve Ault, executive committee, National March on Washington for Lesbian/Gay Rights.

By Stephanie Poggi

WASHINGTON, DC — The U.S.-wide organizing for the March can only be called unprecedented. In the greatest numbers and broadest range of diversity ever, in the most spirited of queer spirits, from Knoxville, Tenn., to Austin, Texas, across the Midwest, up and down both coasts, lesbians and gay men are gearing up. On riverboats, at queer fashion shows, in bars, at AIDS meetings, in bowling alleys and fruit stands in supermarkets, at women's music festivals, at multi-cultural events, in s/m and leather groups, in Central America solidarity committees and lawyers' conventions, people are setting the stage. Whether this is the "biggest" ever or not, longtime activists and increasingly, those new to politics, are coming together to create a movement landmark and a structure to continue the work when the March is over.

Not only are queers talking together — about AIDS, about racism, about sexism, about what we demand for ourselves — but the march momentum has clearly struck a chord in the progressive movements across the country. Central America solidarity groups,

anti-nuclear groups, women's organizations, religious groups, and unions have not only endorsed our time in Washington, but organized for inclusion of lesbian/gay issues in their agendas. "This is the time progressive movements deal with this issue," said Steve Ault.

"There's a lot more enthusiasm

disagreement about the appropriateness of speakers chosen for the afternoon rally and about the process used to choose those speakers.

Discussion about no March resolution explicitly opposing U.S. intervention in Central America and about the meaning of the mass gay "wedding" scheduled during

ly become involved in March organizing.

Gil Gerald, of the National AIDS Network, which has endorsed the March and donated funds to it, said he perceives the "major interest in the March coming from people with AIDS" themselves.

Steve Ault told GCN he believes AIDS "needs to be more significantly highlighted," pointing out that the issue is not even mentioned on March posters.

Other regional highlights include the first meeting for the March in Vermont; the formation of March groups in Memphis, Nashville and Knoxville; newsletters in New England, Southern California, the North Central and South East regions, dance and bar benefits in almost every state and plans for a queer fashion show — complete with models carrying anti-Coors signs — in Boston.

New England organizers have also been carrying on a Visibility Campaign that links local issues to the March such as Mass. Gov. Michael Dukakis' policy banning gay foster parents.

Organizing around both racism and homophobia is also a primary emphasis in many regions. In D.C. an event called "Culturally Yours" featured Asian, Cambodian, Native American and Black performers with half of the funds raised going to the People of Color Caucus for the March. In Boston, the local People of Color Task Force produced a dance party fundraiser, a series of articles on racism in the gay community for GCN and is considering a series in

straight papers reaching people of color. The group may also sponsor a forum on anti-racism.

The New England March Committee has also endorsed the August 30 march on Hartford for Puerto Rican political prisoners in the U.S. The committee will be seeking endorsement for that march from the 64-member national steering committee.

National Developments

While changes in selection of speakers may take place at the Steering committee meeting being held in Seattle as GCN goes to press, there will be eight speakers at the afternoon rally of whom at least half will be gay or lesbian. Straight speakers invited, none of them confirmed, are: Elie Weisel, a Jewish survivor of the Nazi concentration camps and Nobel Peace Prize winner; Jesse Jackson; Ellie Smeal, formerly the President of NOW; Cesar Chavez, head of the United Farm Workers Union; Coretta Scott King and Bella Abzug.

Barbara Jordan, the former member of Congress from Texas, was invited but cannot attend. Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.), who has pushed for AIDS funding but is considered moderate on numerous other issues, also declined to accept the invitation to speak.

Gay/lesbian speakers invited are Black feminist writer and activist Barbara Smith; Ginny Apuzzo; Karen Thompson, who is fighting to regain visitation rights to her disabled lover; and Troy

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come out for yourself
come out for your friends
come out for Justice

NATIONAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON
FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS
OCTOBER 11, 1987

in the non-gay identified progressive groups than anyone would have projected. Groups that don't usually endorse are coming forward," concurred Andrea Devine, a lesbian working with the multi-issue task force in New England.

While nearly everyone working on the March expressed enormous enthusiasm, a number of significant debates go on. Among the concerns are the difficulty in reaching the disabled community, experiences of racism by members of the people of color caucus,

the march also continues.

Regional Developments

With just 69 days to go, organizers on every level are scrambling to reach lesbians and gay men in all the states, to hammer out changes in the five-day march program, and to raise enough money to get everyone to the Capitol.

Among the high priorities for March workers in many regions is outreach to progressive non-gay organizations. New England appears to have the most organized plan for raising the March and related lesbian/gay issues within such groups. Its multi-issue task force, made up of 12 progressive gay-supportive groups, has written letters to well over a hundred organizations, and is sponsoring a media campaign on the public transportation system and a dance. Organizers in the Northwest hope to begin a similar effort, and organizers in Atlanta say they are concentrating on grassroots outreach to progressives. New York activists are attempting to organize a coalition of leftist and/or gay groups.

People in the South Central and North Central regions are focussing almost exclusively on reaching gay men and lesbians, particularly people who have not been involved in gay politics before.

Tapping the enormous base of local AIDS organizations provided another challenge in many regions. Act-Up!, a direct action group in New York, is adding new momentum for March organizing there, and AIDS groups in many cities, including Boston, Washington, San Francisco and Austin are raising money for travel subsidies for people with AIDS and encouraging members to attend. In Boston, the AIDS Action Committee is sending a letter to its 1300 volunteers, urging them to join the AAC contingent at the March.

But some AIDS groups throughout the North Central region of the country do not appear to be involved. Jack Gover, a steering committee member from Atlanta, speculated that some groups, including AID-Atlanta, have not endorsed because they fear funding losses if they official-

Palestinian Gays Bashed

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Two gay Palestinian activists were attacked a few blocks from their home on July 28. The assault occurred near the Post Office on Centre Street in the Jamaica Plain section of the city.

"They were going home and got jumped by four men dressed in army boots and fatigue T-shirts," according to a spokesperson for a Palestinian activist association in Boston. "It's obvious [the attack] was not spontaneous. It was a pre-planned assault."

The spokesperson, the association and the men who were assaulted wish to remain anonymous.

The attackers reportedly yelled "queers" and "faggots" at the two men and threatened to kill them if they continued their Palestinian activism. The men were thrown to the ground and kicked in the face, stomach and groin. The attackers wore bandanas over their faces and had brass knuckles.

The assaulted men did not report the incident to the police because they fear harassment from U.S. officials. They are politically close to the nine Palestinians who were arrested by the Justice Department in

Los Angeles earlier this year for distributing literature in violation of the McCarran-Walter Act which bans advocating a "doctrine of world communism." Following pressure from the American Civil Liberties Union and other advocates, the charges were changed to visa violations.

According to the spokesperson, many Boston-area Palestinian activists have been subjected to harassment, including tire slashings and threatening phone calls. They suspect the harassment is coming from a right wing Jewish organization, which they believe may have been perpetrated by a paramilitary organization, has dramatically increased Palestinians' fears. "Each one of the attackers knew what he was supposed to do. . . . They were big stocky guys who obviously work out regularly," said the spokesperson.

The two men who were attacked are no more active in Palestinian organizing than many other potential targets; the spokesperson surmised they may have been chosen because the attackers assumed "gays couldn't fight."

March on Washington Disobeying at the High Court

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — What better way for lesbian and gay activists to spend July 4 weekend than in two days of lengthy meetings planning non-violent civil disobedience at the Supreme Court? Thirty-five people did just that at a national planning meeting, held in Boston, for the October 13 civil disobedience endorsed by the March on Washington. Organizers came from Texas, Missouri, California and Michigan as well as numerous northeastern states. Representation was particularly high from New York and Massachusetts.

"Out and Outraged: for Love, Life and Liberation," was chosen as the theme for the civil disobedience.

Participating in any kind of protest on the steps of the Supreme Court is illegal. Civil disobedience organizers assert they will be breaking the law banning such protest to draw attention to larger injustices committed by the Supreme Court.

"By its actions in *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the court embraces a legacy of prejudice," states the vision statement for the civil disobedience action. "The decision's immediate effects are obvious: having sex makes us criminals. What might be less obvious are its broader effects. This decision denies our humanity and subjects us to degradation, harassment and

violence. . . . By upholding repression against gay men and lesbians, the bigoted opinion of Justices White, Burger, Rehnquist, O'Connor and Powell extends our country's most shameful legacy: its failure to support human dignity. This legacy includes the genocide of native peoples, slavery, denial of the vote to women and Blacks, segregation and back-alley abortions. At the same time, the struggle in this country to uphold human dignity has created a legacy of its own. In this tradition we are here to fight for our liberation.

"... We act together so we cannot be defeated one by one. We act in the tradition of the labor movement, the suffragist movement, the civil rights movement, the women's movement, the anti-war movement and in solidarity with Central Americans and Black South Africans fighting for self-determination. Through these movements we have learned that substantial gains come from thorough prolonged and persistent direct action."

The tentative scenario as outlined by the planning meeting involves affinity groups — organized groups of 6-15 people — attempting to enter the Supreme Court via the front steps. It is assumed that police will block such movement and arrest those participating. The

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news notes

quote of the week

"Freedom of speech may require having to put up with the Klan's diabolical prejudices against blacks and the gay activists' distorted views of human sexuality. It should not, however, require taxpayers to subsidize [police protection] for them."

—A June 10 editorial in *North Carolina's Durham Morning Herald*, excerpted in the Front Page, on police protection for a Klan march in early June and for the gay pride parade on June 27. The Herald also said, "Durham would do fine without either [group] of course, but the city routinely issues parade permits to any group short of an armed invasion. This silliness comes under the guise of freedom of speech. OK, we'll swallow that argument while holding our nose, the only way you can stomach distasteful medicine, reminding ourselves that freedom of speech requires some nausea. Nonetheless it rankles that taxpayers must pay thousands of dollars [for police protection] to allow these groups to parade their wretched standards."

michigan stops medicaid for abortion

MASON, MI — State funding for abortions was halted late last month, according to the *New York Times*. There are now only 13 states that fund abortions for poor women. Federal Medicaid for abortion was cut off through the Hyde amendment in 1976.

The new state law in Michigan prohibits Medicaid abortions unless the woman's life is in danger. The law was initiated by anti-abortion groups in the state. It passed the Senate by 30-6 and the House by 66-41.

State lawmakers had attempted to eliminate the funding 17 times since 1978, but the measures were vetoed by Gov. James Blanchard and by his predecessor, William Milliken. The new law eluded the veto because it began as a petition — organized by Right to Life of Michigan.

The People's Campaign for Choice, a pro-abortion rights group, is now fighting enactment of the law. The group argues that the law should take effect next year and that Medicaid funding should continue at least temporarily.

—Stephanie Poggi

nambla anthology

SAN FRANCISCO — The North American Man/Boy Love Association is producing an anthology of original articles about man/boy love.

The anthology's theme is: how did man/boy love come to be considered a specific and distinct form of sexual expression? How has it been considered in different historical, class, ethnic and cultural contexts?

The anthology will also look at the medical construction of "pedophilia" by psychiatric establishment, how a liberating sexual politics can be created that respects diversity and whether or not the lesbian and gay movement can pursue such a politics.

A principal goal of the anthology is to address people who do not much think about man/boy love by setting it in a context of a broader discussion of sexuality.

Non-fiction and fiction contributions are encouraged and submissions by people of color, youths, women, and working class people are especially welcome.

Submissions are due by November 30, 1987. Publication is scheduled for fall of 1988. For more information, write NAMBLA journal 8, 537 Jones St., No. 8418, S.F., CA 94102.

—Stephanie Poggi

gay/lesbian youth of tijuana

TIJUANA, Mexico — POLEN, the gay and lesbian youth group here has joined with the Grupo ¡Y Qué! and FIGHT to deal with the AIDS crisis in northern Mexico.

POLEN, which is affiliated with the International Gay & Lesbian Youth Organization (IGLYO) based in Oslo, Norway, is also trying to encourage more youth groups to start in Mexico and other Latin American countries. POLEN would like to hear from other youth groups and exchange information and publications. Small contributions will be appreciated and used for their correspondence needs and to acquire a typewriter.

Write to Loren's Herrera, Presidente, POLEN, Apartado Postal #3589, Tijuana, B.C., Mexico. They have a brochure in Spanish available called "¿Qué es Polen?"

—John Hubert

study on aids in the black community

LOS ANGELES — Researchers Vickie M. Mays and Susan D. Cochran have been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health to conduct a national study of "knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of Black gay men or Black males who have ever been sexually active with another man."

Anyone wishing more information about the study or wishing to participate in it should contact Mays at the Department of Psychology-University of California at Los Angeles, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563, (213) 825-9858.

—Stephanie Poggi

int'l les/gay youth

OSLO — The International Gay & Lesbian Youth Organization (IGLYO) just published the first issue of their new quarterly, *IGLYO Bulletin*. The first issue includes coverage of this year's International Conference in London, IGLYO statutes, an article on "Growing Up Gay in Bombay," and an appeal for youth correspondents worldwide to contribute to future issues of the publication. News, interesting or funny stories, special events, drawings or even newspaper clippings are welcome. Subscriptions to the bulletin are NOK 15 (Norway) or about \$7 in U.S. currency. To avoid international banking charges, send \$8-10 U.S. cash (4 issues) or \$2 for a sample copy to: IGLYO, P.O. Box 1305, Vika, N-0112, Oslo 1, Norway.

—John Hubert



Michael Koschewski

ILGA conference-goers lay wreath for lesbian/gay victims of Nazi persecution, Cologne.

9th ilga conference

COLOGNE, West Germany — Eighty delegates from 46 lesbian and gay organizations in 20 countries gathered here from June 29-July 4 for the 9th International Lesbian and Gay Association conference.

One of the most heatedly debated decisions was the suspension from the ILGA of the Gay Association of Southern Africa, on charges of collaboration with the authorities of South Africa's apartheid regime. GASA has also been charged with doing little to aid Simon Nkoli, a Black gay anti-apartheid activist who was released on bail early this month after spending three years in prison. In a related development, several organizations from Denmark, Norway and Sweden agreed to help several South African progressive multi-racial groups finance a lesbian/gay community center in Soweto.

The conference also agreed to coordinate a day of worldwide fundraising for ILGA on December 10, International Human Rights Day.

Participants took time to march in the annual lesbian/gay pride demonstration in Cologne. Some bystanders openly praised Hitler's extermination of homosexuals. A gay pride celebration party here was also disrupted by a bomb threat and telephone warnings that lesbians and gay men attending would be killed. Police refused to search for explosives so members of ILGA and other pride celebrants were forced to stand for hours outside the building.

Countries represented at the conference were Austria, Belgium, Spain, Canada, Denmark, England, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, South Africa, the United States, West Germany and Yugoslavia.

—Stephanie Poggi

older men with hiv

BERKELEY, CA — Older men with HIV antibodies are likely to develop full-blown AIDS more quickly than younger men with HIV, according to researchers at the University of Calif. at Berkeley and at San Francisco.

The new finding comes from a study done of AIDS cases among gay men living in an area of high AIDS incidence in central San Francisco.

The team of researchers say that other factors such as use of poppers and a history of sexually transmitted diseases also play a role in older men's development of AIDS.

As of September, 1986, 12.4 percent of men with HIV antibodies in the high incidence area had developed AIDS. But only five percent of infected men aged 25-29 had full-blown AIDS, while 20 percent of those aged 35-44 had developed the disease.

The scientists suspect that age at time of infection may partly determine how well a man's immune system can fight off AIDS. They also noted that the men aged 35-44 generally had more extensive use of poppers and a more extensive history of sexually transmitted diseases, specifically gonorrhea, syphilis, and amoebic dysentery. The older men with AIDS had not contracted HIV any earlier than the younger men.

Researcher James Wiley, co-director of the Survey Research Center at U.C. Berkeley, can be reached at (415) 642-3086 for more information.

—Stephanie Poggi

sclc conference on aids

WASHINGTON, DC — The Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) has urged Blacks to accept greater responsibility for containing AIDS, according to the *New York Times*. The appeal came at the opening of an SCLC conference at Howard University on AIDS among Black people.

The SCLC has attempted to mobilize Black people throughout the U.S. by sponsoring a series of state conferences on AIDS and its impact on the Black community.

SCLC President Dr. Joseph Lowery told conference-goers, "The concept of AIDS in the Black community is that it is a gay, white, male person disease . . . We in the Black community must face up to the fact that AIDS is a threat to the total Black community. Blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population but account for 25 percent of AIDS cases. 8,903 Blacks are reported to have AIDS. Lowery called for strengthened family values, and freedom from sexual promiscuity, substance abuse, [and] perverted priorities."

Norman Nickens, an AIDS discrimination representative from the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, answered arguments that activists are putting civil rights above public health concerns. "If individuals are afraid of being discriminated against for acknowledging they have the disease, they may try to hide it, or fail to obtain proper medical care. That would pose a greater health risk to the larger public," he said.

Many conference participants compared the fight against AIDS to the civil right struggles of the 1960s. The SCLC is an Atlanta-based civil rights organization.

—Marc Stein

florida denies azt for poor

TALLAHASSEE, FL — Five South Florida organizations have joined forces to oppose the Florida House Appropriations Committee's recent decision against state purchases of AZT (Retrovir) for indigent people with AIDS (PWAs), according to *The Weekly News*. The Appropriations Committee voted to postpone funding for a year, rejecting Governor Bob Martinez's proposal to supply about \$1.3 million in state funds to help Medicaid-eligible PWAs purchase AZT. Estimated AZT costs for one PWA is \$8-12,000 annually.

Dade Advocates for Rights and Equality (DARE) joined with Health Crisis Network of Miami, Broward Center One, Broward Dolphin Democratic Club, and the Dade Chapter of the National Organization for Women in urging the legislators to reconsider.

Some figures suggest that the House action will leave 171 otherwise eligible people without state help in buying AZT. Many believe the figure is much higher. Marguerite Rowe, coordinator of client services for Center One, said, "We don't know who to blame, whether it's Burroughs Wellcome (which manufactures AZT), or the legislature or who. I don't want to blame anyone. I just know that our clients are having to undergo the stress of having to get this medicine and that's very wrong. They have enough trouble trying to find enough food to eat and keeping a roof over their head."

—Marc Stein

Defense Dept. Punishes People with AIDS

By Chris Bull

WASHINGTON, DC — The Pentagon is defying a congressional prohibition on AIDS-based discrimination in the military by continuing to punish enlisted personnel who test HIV positive, according to military observers.

The Department of Defense claims that its recently revised regulations ensure that new recruits who test positive are still rejected for military service, active duty personnel who test positive are retained on active duty, while those who develop symptoms are medically retired.

The military has so far tested about seventy-five percent of its personnel with 1.5 per thousand testing positive. For Black and Latino personnel the rate is 3-4 per thousand, according to the National Lawyer's Guild Military Task Force in San Diego.

However, Kathleen Gilberd of the Task Force expressed serious reservations about the military's interpretation of the congressional prohibition on "adverse personnel action" against those who test HIV positive. The Task Force newsletter, *On Watch*, criticizes the new policy for skirting the congressional ban on adverse personnel action against HIV-positive enlistees, discriminating against homosexual personnel, failing to offer AIDS education and counseling, and threatening to court martial soldiers or sailors who "engage in unsafe sex or share needles. . . . The military still fails to recognize the scope of the problem posed by AIDS, and still views AIDS and HIV positivity as a 'gay problem,' worthy of punishment rather than protection."

Representatives Patricia Schroeder (D-Col.) and Don Edwards (D-Cal.) sponsored legislation which prohibits the military from taking any "adverse personnel action" on the basis of information disclosed by HIV-positive service members during HIV-related medical examinations. They hope to encourage military personnel to seek AIDS education and medical care, free from the fear of punishment by the military. They argue that this was the only effective way to halt the spread of AIDS in the military without violating the rights of service members.

Representative Henry Waxman (D-Cal.) blasted the military for

not adhering to the intention of the law. Waxman, chairperson of the Health and Human Services subcommittee, said, in a subcommittee meeting, that "Homosexual relations and sharing of intravenous syringes are two of the most common ways to spread the disease. Yet, both homosexuality and drug use can serve as grounds to punish, remove or cause the reassignment of a member of the military. If we allow the use of information from military interviews to be used to the detriment of those being interviewed, they will not admit to anything. And, if they do not admit to anything, efforts to isolate the disease will fail."

Bridgette Wilson, coordinator of the Task Force's National Military Project on AIDS, explained that the military's practice is often much different from its stated policy. Even if the official policy ensured the confidentiality of HIV tests, military doctors are required to report the results of tests and interviews to commanding officers. The commanding officer may then launch an investigation into the sex life of an enlisted person. The military can then claim they found evidence of the person's homosexuality or drug use "independently" of the HIV test. The courts have consistently upheld the military's right to dismiss gay men and lesbians as well as drug users. Congress might attempt to protect enlistees who test HIV positive, but there is very little support for a ban on discrimination against gay men and lesbians. In this way the military skirts the law, Wilson told *GCN*.

Wilson also said that the military found a way — a legally questionable way, in her opinion — around the law simply by redefining "non-adverse personnel action." Congress, said Wilson, intended the law to mean that personnel could not be punished for their HIV status. But the military simply created a new category of supposedly "non-adverse personnel action," including reassignment, denial or revocation of a security clearance, suspension or termination of access to classified information and removal from flight status or "other duties requiring a high degree of stability or alertness such as explosive ordnance or deep-sea diving."

According to *On Watch*, "the idea that these actions are not adverse is even more questionable. . . it creates a great potential for disruption of service members' lives and careers. Waxman told the subcommittee that the new Department of Defense policy 'violates the purpose of the law. . . I regard each of these actions (reassignment, revocation of security clearance, etc.) as punitive.'"

According to Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Peter Wyro, the military does everything in its power to keep service members who test positive on active duty. He said that the military has invested too much in enlisted personnel to dismiss or demote everyone who tests positive. "However," he explained, "once a person is determined to be unfit for the job he may be reassigned, or if the illness has progressed far enough, medically retired."

"The military uses a 1-6 AIDS staging system, level 1 being asymptomatic seropositives, and 6 being full-blown AIDS. We do this on a case-by-case basis only. Someone who is showing symptoms should not be deployed in a tropical unit on the other side of the world in an infantry that must run five miles per day," Wyro said.

Task Force attorney Jim Klinaski told *GCN* the military automatically demotes members who test positive. He also said that the military also used "0" in their AIDS staging system for suspected homosexuals and drug users. Wilson claimed AIDS symptoms are far too varied to use a rating or staging system. "It is not unusual to find someone who fits the number 6 category who feels quite well and has every capacity to function on the job," she said.

Jim Klinaski insisted Representatives Schroeder, Edwards and Waxman should take some of the blame for the military's abuse of the HIV test. He said the language of the HIV confidentiality bill was so vague that they were inviting the military to circumvent the law. "What the hell did they think was going to happen? Congress acted sloppily on this bill and they must rewrite it," said Klinaski.

He added that even the federal government makes a distinction between adverse personnel action, such as firing or suspension, and

minor punishments, such as reassignments or administrative leaves. "Congress simply failed to give the military another standard to go by. It should have expected them to interpret the law as loosely as they possibly could. And you can bet your bootstraps that the military is trying to find a way to discharge all HIV positives."

Congress, however, has been instrumental in limiting the repressive military policy, according to Andy Feinstein, legislative assistant to Schroeder. He said Waxman and Schroeder have helped block legislation introduced by Senator Jesse Helms (D-N.C.) and Rep. William Dannemeyer (R-Cal.) that called for mass forced testing and quarantine in and outside the military. (See *GCN*,

Vol. 14, No. 47) "We were actually quite lucky to get it [the non-adverse action amendment] into the bill at all. We are very afraid of a floor vote because the majority of Congress is not educated on the issue yet. We never could have gotten away with it on the floor. We have to remember that this could be a much worse situation."

Although Feinstein agreed that the military was violating at least the spirit of the law, he said nothing could be done about it until the majority of Congress stops "mimicking the panic of the populace." He said the courts were the only hope, at the moment, to strike down the military's violation of confidentiality.

—filed from Boston

Gay Olympian Waddell Dies



By Charles Linebarger

SAN FRANCISCO — Thomas Waddell died at his home here on Saturday morning, July 11. He was 49 years old and a native of New Jersey. Waddell was an Olympic athlete, the founder of the Gay Games and a father.

Almost 20 years ago, in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City, Waddell placed sixth in the decathlon. In 1982 he went on to found the Gay Games in San Francisco. Originally called the Gay Olympic Games, the event was forced to change its name following a suit brought by the U.S. Olympic Committee. A decision favoring the U.S. Olympic Committee was delivered last month in a controversial 5-4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In June 1986 Waddell was diagnosed with AIDS when he came down with pneumocystis carinii pneumonia. Two days after leaving the hospital he of-

ficially the opening of Gay Games II in San Francisco. At Gay Games II Waddell won a gold medal in the javelin event.

According to Sara Lewenstein, a member of the Gay Games Board of Directors and co-parent with Waddell, "Tom touched everyone's heart with a special charisma that few people have. He was a sensitive and wonderful man. And Jessica [their daughter] and me will miss him very much."

A memorial service to honor the gay Olympian was held under the rotunda of San Francisco City Hall on Saturday, July 18. A huge throng filled the ornate building that afternoon to honor Waddell.

Gay Games attorney Mary Dunlap said that despite Waddell's death the Gay Games will "go on and on no matter what anybody does to stop them and Tom will always be at those Games in spirit."

March on Washington

Continued from page 1

Perry of the Metropolitan Community Church. Perry and Thompson had agreed to speak as *GCN* went to press. None of the other gay speakers are confirmed. A gay person with AIDS will also speak, and lesbian/gay entertainment is also planned.

The morning rally is expected to represent the "vision and ideas of the People of Color Caucus," according to New England steering committee member and caucus member Terry Ortiz. The event will begin with Native American and African drummers and may include "In Process," a working group with Sweet Honey in the Rock, Audre Lorde, Essex Hemphill, Bayard Rustin and Betty Powell.

An S&M/leather conference is now scheduled for the preceding day, October 10. Organizer Brenda Howard said she has "received a positive response from all over the country" and hopes to see "bus and planeloads of our people" in Washington. "Our first task is to find people," she added, "because we've never been organized nationally. I hope people will contact us if we haven't reached them yet."

A project called "Time to

Shine," organizing people with AIDS to come to Washington, is also underway.

Lobby day, originally scheduled for Friday, October 9, will now take place Thursday, October 8.

Speakers and Process

The most contentious debate at this point surrounds the process of selecting speakers for the afternoon rally and the politics of speakers invited. A number of steering committee members and other March workers are dissatisfied with the speaker lineup, claiming the executive committee should have allowed more participation in the process. Steering committee members expressed concern about the emphasis on "name" speakers over grassroots activists; the inclusion of straight speakers with little understanding of lesbian/gay issues and problematic stands on other March issues; and the omission of a gay man of color as a speaker.

According to steering committee members at a meeting in Los Angeles this January, the seven-member executive committee asked steering committee members to submit names for speakers, but gave no opportunity for input into

final selection. Many members wanted to have had time to get feedback from their communities. Others suggested that the names should have been circulated in the gay/lesbian press for reaction.

According to steering committee member George Bakan of Seattle, "Ideas were left up in the air at the LA meeting. People were asleep and didn't challenge the process." Bakan also charged that "the executive committee has a lack of sensitivity to group process." Gerry Scoppettuolo, a steering committee member from Nashville, Tenn., agreed, saying the decision-making group for speakers should have been broader. Mary Walters of Austin said it would have made sense to give more input to steering committee members.

But executive committee members Steve Ault and Pat Norman maintain people had an opportunity to participate at both the LA January meeting and later at a steering committee meeting in Atlanta. Ault said "the pool of names was selected by steering committee members in January," and that "no one opened up the discussion further in Atlanta." He said the executive committee

"took seriously the concerns expressed," in particular from representatives in Boston, who asked that grassroots activists be given more input into choice of speakers and that speakers represent grassroots activity such as the fight against the LaRouche initiative in California and the foster care policy in Massachusetts.

But Ault said it was important "not to get into a wrangle about speakers with 70 people [on the steering committee]." Norman added that she believed "the process was open enough" and said "we would not do anything to disempower the steering committee."

Jack Gover, a former steering committee member from Atlanta, agreed with Ault and Norman, saying, "The opportunity was there if people had someone in mind."

But Terry Ortiz of the People

of Color Caucus told *GCN*, "The process of selection got away from us. Instead of facilitating our regaining control, the executive committee is saying, 'Well, you were out of it.' " She said speakers were discussed late in meetings when many steering committee members were already gone. Ortiz added that executive committee members created a "false choice between good process and expediency — they could have at least polled the steering committee of our top three choices."

Steering committee member Loren Laureano, a Latino gay man with AIDS from Texas, concurred, saying, "If it takes a lot of time to choose speakers as a group, well, we have to spend that time." He stressed that he has confidence in many of the leaders of the March, "but somewhere along

Continued on page 6

Community Voices



GCN Job Opening

GCN is looking for a **freelance, part-time typesetter** to coordinate the paper's revenue-producing, outside typesetting business.

Responsibilities include: typeset outside work and schedule other typesetters; serve as contact person for clients and respond to inquiries; prepare periodic billings and maintain the necessary financial records; coordinate scheduling needs with the paper's in-house typesetter, and keep managing editor informed about the business; and contact typesetting repair service if necessary.

Qualifications include: Good typesetting skills, preferably on a Compugraphic Editwriter 7500, and strong organizational skills with attention to detail. Familiarity with GCN strongly preferred. Knowledge of progressive movements helpful.

Hours: 10-20 hours/week (evenings, Friday and weekends)

Salary: \$8/hour

To apply please send resume and cover letter ASAP to Typesetting Search Committee, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

some survive & some die

Dear GCN:

Here in Kansas there is a great need for unity among the gay prisoners. Most of us have been brainwashed into believing that the best way to find a security from the harsh reality of prison is to conform to the demands of those who seek to keep us ignorant of the outside and suspicious of one another; that is, divided.

I've been put into the hole [isolation] "Pending Investigation." What the investigation is of I have no idea. I was taken from my cell by 5 guards in Viet Nam style gear (hand me downs?) who refused to tell me why I was being segregated.

I had filed law suits against the prison, so apparently they have convinced some inmate-snitches to tell some lie or other about me; the same stool pigeons who say 'everything is fine here' on those rare occasions when the media or some outside officials or visitors show up.

Anyone who fights for our rights here is likely to be put into isolation for some trumped up charge (only "investigated" by the prison administration, of course), and if this doesn't scare us, we may find ourselves being forced to take "medication" to "adjust our mental health" etc. etc. The beginning of a long journey to madness. Some survive and some die.

I would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in helping. Just a word of encouragement would be nice.

Melvin Allison

41171 Box 2

Lansing, KS 66043

if it was good enough for noah, david, saul and isaiah

GCN received a copy of this letter to "The Honorable Randall Isenberg," a Texas state District Judge.

Dear Judge Isenberg:

A recent article in a local newspaper revealed that two Dallas men "were arrested when a park policeman said he saw the pair in a restroom with their genitals exposed." One man has already been found guilty of indecent exposure and sentenced, after you stated that he violated "God's law."

Now, I may not have access to all the evidence that your honor is privy to, but I beg to differ with your judgment that this man's actions fly in the face of "God's law."

As I see it, these men were simply following an ancient biblical tradition. Better get the "good book" out now. Remember that Mediterranean ship builder, Mr. Noah? Well, he kinda set things in motion, you could even say he's the father of Exhibitionism. Unfortunately Noah's fondness for wine led him to oftentimes drown his sorrows. Soon afterwards, he exposed himself. If you doubt this, look yourself, see: Genesis 9:18-29.

Then there's King David, another spirited fellow, known more for his two-step than his drinking. Well, one day while bringing the ark (god's house) home he just became overwhelmed with joy and started doing whatever dance they did back then. Things being what they are, one step led to another and soon all the people who lined the streets to see the ark were now eyeing the royal penis (II Samuel 6: 12-20).

Next we have Saul, who liked to prophesy in the nude (I Samuel 19:20-24). The "good book" tells us that he definitely had a talent for it. It was even pleasing in the eyes of Jehovah (think about that) who then gave an injunction to Isaiah to

cons: inside & out

Dear GCN:

As a reader of your paper I feel that prisoners are getting a bad rap as penpals sometimes.

I understand that some people have had bad experiences by being conned by cons, yet I feel that a small percentage are giving the rest of us a bad rep. I have gotten many answers to my ad and on the whole I have developed good friendships with most of them.

A good rule of thumb to follow is, if they start to ask for things and you don't feel comfortable, say no; better yet, say in the first letter that you are interested in correspondence - period. I have always thought that I must be willing to give of myself in these relationships therefore I wrote promptly and try to make my letters enjoyable to others.

I wish to thank people who take the time to write me. And to those who stopped, often without saying why [isn't this a con?] I'm sorry I didn't turn out as you may have expected. (I'd still like to try.)

To GCN and Mike, you do a good job and thanks for making these two years easier to bear. Steve Simmons
86A3979 (5-2-12)
Box 367
Dannemora, NY 12929

engage in naked prophesy and to keep it up for three years (Isaiah 20:1-5). Another prophet, Micah, was so impressed that he promised to imitate Isaiah's action (Micah 1:8).

Now if these accounts don't establish a biblical tradition for exhibitionism, I say go to the "moon," or to the source, to the top man, and you'll find none other than Jehovah himself, telling Moses that he can have a peek at his very own "hinder parts" (Exodus 33:20-23). This universal deific mooning must have been an impressive sight that has certainly provided us moderns with a relevant educational tool.

Judge, if it's good enough for Noah, King David, Saul, Isaiah, Micah — and even Jehovah — what's wrong with a couple of ordinary Americans doing it? If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, why then these men deserve a reward not punishment, if you use the Bible as your guide.

Before you cite "God's law" again, perhaps you should reread that saucy tome. The incest, rape, adultery, group sex, striptease, prostitution, abortion, pregnancy by proxy, homosexuality, sex, drugs, circumcision of the living and the dead, bestiality, scatology, castration, wife-kidnapping, devil sex, witchcraft and much more ought to categorize the Bible as what Meese calls pornography and not as a book of law.

Your charge should be to uphold civil law and protect the rights of the citizens, not inflict religious beliefs on the people of Texas. I suggest you stick to civil law and don't muddle it any further with religion and "God's law."

Yours beyond religion,
Stephen J. Maciejewski
Philadelphia, PA

we won!

Dear GCN:

We won! The Alabama Dept. of Correction has given up. We won the fight over me receiving GCN. We took them to court and before the judge could give us a verdict, they submitted by saying I can receive the paper.

I would like to thank your staff and other people who wrote the prison in protest of them not allowing me to receive GCN.

But a special thanks goes out to my brother who I love as I love myself, Richard Tremblay of Boston BWMT who always was faithful to help me in any problem I had.

It goes to show when we stick together as a community, family and friends, we can get what we go out for.

I can't wait to receive my papers!

Once again, thank you Richard and GCN,
Nathaniel Barnes
136238 1-S-T
100 Warrior Lane
Bessemer, AL 35023

those who do not learn from the past . . .

GCN received a copy of the following letter to *In These Times*

Dear *In These Times*:

Today I received your fund appeal. For the past decade I have been an avid reader of *ITT*. In that time, I would conservatively estimate that I have sent you at least \$200, between my subscription and various donations. I have often given to emergency fund appeals in the past because I believe, generally, that your paper provides one of the best alternative perspectives on the news.

"Once again," you tell us, "*In These Times* is facing a severe financial crisis." This time, I'm sorry to have to tell you, you deserve it. Your sexist, anti-gay attitudes stink to high heaven. Like the behavior of the German Left before Hitler, such bigotry (no matter how politely you attempt to couch it in liberal terms) is alienating the very people you should be seeking out as allies, playing into the hands of the most repressive and reactionary forces in this society. To your disgrace, you are performing their dirty work for them: divide and conquer. *Those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it.*

As a gay man who has lost many, too many, dear friends to AIDS (including one who died just a couple of days ago), I was deeply insulted by the recent editorial advocating "routine" use of the "AIDS test" for certain unpopular classes of persons (like prisoners, who are already put through hell on the merest suspicion that they could have AIDS) — and then by James Weinstein's mealy-mouthed apologia several weeks later in response to a couple of angry letters from readers. Four years ago in response to letters protesting your slighting coverage of gay issues, the editor in effect stated that *ITT* had already run its token gay story for that year. When Stephanie Poggi of *Gay Community News* interviewed John Judis for its article about you, he derisively accused her of researching for a "diatribe."

Such symptoms reveal a contemptuous, tokenist attitude toward people who should be a vital part of your readership — and you are losing us, as evidenced by the subscriptions being cancelled in protest. Publications like *Mother Jones* and (especially) the *Guardian* far outshine you with their sensitive, incisive coverage of gay issues. You richly deserve the embarrassment of that GCN cover story; the cover should be blown up to poster size and tacked on your front door.

If I wanted a chickenshit liberal rag, I would have paid for one. Please, do not expect any contributions, or even a renewal, if you continue on your present path. You're very lucky I haven't cancelled (yet). With my present level of anger, you should thank your lucky stars that I'm not attaching a brick to this postal reply envelope.

Sincerely,

John Kyper

Roxbury, MA

P.S. to GCN: Kudos to Stephanie for an article well done! One small factual correction, however: Nitrous oxide (laughing gas) is *not* poppers (amyl or isobutyl nitrite). Evidently Stephanie repeated the error implicit in the *ITT* cartoon. It's one more small symptom of how poorly their editors understand gay lifestyles.

GCN prints all letters to the editor except personal attacks; carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are published on a space-available basis. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the GCN membership. Letters should be TYPED and DOUBLESPPACED limited to THREE typed pages. Send to Community Voices, GCN, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

GayCommunityNews

Cover by Niall Sweeny
and Dan Mishkind

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Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out

Civil Disobedience as a Strategy to Fight AIDS Bigotry Speaking, Shouting, Singing, Must Equal Life

By Eric E. Rofes

On Monday, June 1st, I joined 63 other AIDS activists from throughout the nation in a civil disobedience action to protest the Reagan Administration's inaction in the AIDS crisis. We blocked traffic on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House, held signs and chanted slogans, and were arrested by police officers when we refused to leave. We were carted away in buses after being handcuffed, photographed and recorded on arrest citation forms. After three hours in the Indiana Street jail, we acknowledged our guilt, paid a fine, and were released from prison.

The event received front-page media attention throughout America and in many nations around the world. A photograph of a police officer handcuffing activist Leonard Matlovich wearing his Air Force uniform and carrying an American flag appeared throughout the world, including a caption indicating Matlovich's status as a person with AIDS and the police officer's use of yellow latex gloves in handling the arrested activists. President Ronald Reagan publicly commented on the demonstration and the action was a political high-point of the Third International AIDS Conference in Washington — a conference of 6,500 "experts" with an embarrassing dearth of political awareness or concern.

Without attempting to overstate the experience, it is important to discuss the experience of this arrest, as it had a deeply personal and profound impact on those arrested and has already exerted a powerful influence in radicalizing AIDS activism throughout the nation. While our experience in jail was not at all typical of most arrested individuals — our "pre-arrangements" made for a more comfortable stay than most prisoners' — the commitment to civil disobedience and the accompanying risks have had a far reaching impact in my own life.

Why Civil Disobedience?

The action was planned by a group of activists throughout the nation, spearheaded by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, National Gay Rights Advocates and Mobilization Against AIDS. Los Angeles area activists had a major role in the development of the plans and the overall conceptualization of the action.

My involvement began about 3 weeks prior to June 1st when Duke Comegys —

After spending the past five years sitting shiva or sitting at wakes, we were sitting in traffic outside the White House. The fury had been unleashed.

president of the Board of Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center of Los Angeles where I work as executive director — called to urge my participation. In initial discussion with some of those involved had I concerns about the conceptualization of the project, but I made arrangements to be in Washington and participate.

While some people in California see civil disobedience as a throwback to the '60s, civil disobedience and other radical actions have continued as a part of the lesbian/gay and feminist movements since Stonewall. Sit-ins, illegal picketing, "love-ins" were a part of an overall strategy for gay liberation. However, it would be impossible to deny that during the '70s and '80s, our movement became increasingly oriented towards less radical approaches, preferring lobbying, press conferences and schmoozing with politicians as a more mainstream strategy toward our goals.

Over the past two years, however, we have seen the development of more radical approaches once again, this time in response to the AIDS crisis. Groups such as the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation in New York, Boston's Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, the AIDS Vigil in San Francisco, and Los Angeles' several groups fighting the LaRouche Initiative, as well as the AIDS Hospice Committee, have utilized strategies for raising issues and affecting politics that are angrier, less "polite," and more visible than we have seen in most places in recent years. A civil disobedience action in Washington, D.C., would serve to get the word out to places throughout the nation that taking to the streets must be a part of our strategy in these terrifyingly repressive times.

Those of us who were planning to be arrested enjoyed a three-hour training before the demonstration organized by San Francisco activist Cleve Jones and the Women's Peace Center in Washington, D.C. Lesbian and gay leaders from throughout the nation were present, including Virginia Apuzzo of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force; Dan Bradley, a person with AIDS and the former director of Legal Services for President Carter; Vivian Shapiro of the Human Rights Campaign Fund; City Councillor David Scondras of Boston; Tim Sweeney of New York's Gay Men's Health Crisis; author Larry Kramer; Jean O'Leary of National Gay Rights Advocates; Troy Perry from MCC; Mayor Steve Schulte of West Hollywood and many others. Los Angeles was well-represented in the group, supplying a dozen of the 64 protesters. Significant was the inclusion of non-gay AIDS activists, including APLA's John Mortimer, and a large number of people with AIDS throughout the nation.

This was going to be my first time in jail. I'd participated in demonstrations like this in Massachusetts, but never let myself get behind bars. I had some of the fears that many middle-class activists have when it comes to putting ourselves on the line and my fears were exacerbated during the morning's training when NGR's Leonard Graff — who prepared an excellent package of information on issues we should consider before being arrested — mentioned that a transperson had recently been raped in the D.C. jail. My stereotypes of criminals and lawbreakers leaped into my mind and made me reconsider my decision. After a dramatic discussion of the importance of this action — and a reminder of the event slogan, "Silence = Death" — I resolved to continue.

Facing the Police

We marched to the park and a quick press conference took place with Jean O'Leary and Dan Bradley leading the way; then we took our banners and a memorial wreath and leaped the concrete barriers onto Pennsylvania Avenue. The cops were ready, traffic was halted and the television cameras hummed. We sat there in 90 degree heat chanting our slogans as the police urged us to move. When they gave the third warning and no one vacated, they announced we were under arrest.

As the arrests proceeded, the crowd and some of the demonstrators taunted the cops — a strategy that our training session had chosen not to pursue (considering the enemy to be focused on Reagan, not the cops). "Only sissies wear gloves" was an offensive chant to me that unfortunately found its way onto national television coverage of the demo. "They'll see it on the news — your gloves don't match your shoes" was a less offensive, humorous chant from the crowd. Through it all, the police seemed more like Cagney and Lacey characters than the authoritarian fantasies we see in Tom of Finland drawings. A humanitarian spirit seemed infused throughout the action, enveloping demonstrators, the crowd, the cops and the media. We were there for a reason.

An Afternoon in Jail

We were driven to the Indiana Street station, booked and placed in two cells — one for men and one for women. I was in a cell built for roughly 16 individuals which housed about 49 men for three-and-a-half hours on June 1st. A toilet was in the cell and bunks with

mattresses. That was it.

It was here that the impact of the demonstration hit me. After the initial period where jail felt like summer camp or a college dorm or a camping trip with the gay guys, the experience got a little boring. The cell was overly air-conditioned, so we were freezing. Funny comments and jokes lasted a few minutes, but then most of us broke into one-on-one discussions or small group talks about many topics: our work, our lives, the impact of AIDS, our fears for the movement. Some of us found a quiet place to rest and think. Some of us gave each other backrubs.

I spent some time here digesting the realization that my activist work had brought me behind bars. I considered how I felt about being imprisoned and the impact of prisons and jails on my life, even though I had never been imprisoned before. As a Jew, I have lived with the horror of concentration camps as a real-to-life experience for my people this century. As a gay man, I have spent time underground, living a double life, engaging in activities where I feared arrest. As a gay man in the 1980s, I am aware that even my consensual sexual activity in a bedroom makes me a criminal in most parts of this nation. And here I was in jail — actually, finally, in jail.

All of a sudden, the experience finally became real to me in a larger and more moving sense than the focus on myself. Seeing our leadership behind bars in a mass, dramatic statement of how desperate we are in this AIDS fight, brought the matter to a new level. With Reagan calling for mandatory testing, with Bush believing that it's only a "gay conspiracy" that's preventing the Right's AIDS agenda from being fully empowered with fundamentalists calling for our quarantine, tattooing and extinction, we must get angry and we must show this anger and desperation as visibly as possible. Knowing that each of us behind bars has lost countless friends, colleagues, lovers and the epidemic is only beginning, made the demonstration make sense to me. We were not letting our grief and our sadness and our fear freeze us into inaction. We were transporting it into anger, into action, into fury. We had turned the tide for ourselves, away from paralysis and into spirited activity. After spending the past five years sitting shiva or sitting at wakes, we were sitting in traffic outside the White House. The fury had been unleashed.

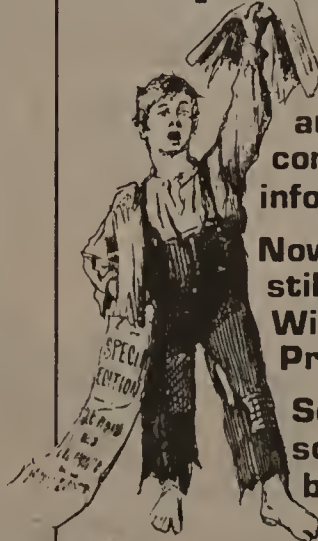
These might seem strange statements to make concerning a group of activists so involved in AIDS action work for the past six years. Certainly none of us had been paralyzed. But, for myself, the past few months have seen a tidal wave of loss and fear come over me. Death upon death, fear upon fear, loss upon loss. As the impact of AIDS on my life runs its course, I will see periods of being overwhelmed, confused, discouraged and frozen. My mind may work but my feelings may shut off. My compulsions may ebb and flow and send me into action in healing ways or destructive ways. The only thing certain is that no one prepared me — or any of us — for a tragedy of this magnitude. My response and my coping is on a day-to-day basis.

In a conversation with one activist during our jail stay, we were discussing the role of gay male leadership in the age of AIDS, an issue I think about daily. For those of us who are committed to being here — in the movement — for the long haul, it is critical that we care for ourself and chart actions and strategies with a vision in mind. Most of all, however, is the need for our movement's leadership to present optimism and hope for the community. We will stop AIDS. Many of us will survive this epidemic. Gay culture will exist in twenty years. However, to provide this vision and spirit of hope, we have got to monitor our personal cycles of anger, depression, grief, joy, determination. Like Gay and Lesbian Pride Celebrations — and like the March on Washington this fall — the civil disobedience action in Washington has served to fuel my spirit and recommit me to activism. Sharing two cells with the "Washington 64" during three hours on June 1st has made me acknowledge just how committed I am to this community and how important it is to express this commitment in action.

As we were released and left our cells and went onto the street in the late afternoon heat and humidity, there was a sense of celebration and relief. With movie cameras recording our exit, and hugs and kisses from supporters, many of us knew that our small action had had a major impact on our own conception of ourselves, our movement and our fight against AIDS. If it is true that "Silence = Death," then speaking, shouting, singing, chanting, yelling clearly must equal life!

Eric Rofes is an ex-GCN staffer and the Executive Director of the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center in Los Angeles.

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Coming Out to March on Washington

Continued from page 3

the line, the process broke down."

Laureano also took issue with the "A-list" quality of speakers. "Do you have to be a somebody on an 'A-list' to speak? Is this a people's rally?" He said he was "very disappointed that there is no gay man of color," adding that "we may have to expand the number of speakers. People are starting to lobby." He also asked, "What about the older community and very young people? They always get left out." Gerry Scoppettuolo agreed, saying, "I think they put personalities before issues."

Gover disagrees, saying he hopes "they come up with bigger names."

Other activists said they believed the desire for national media attention had overridden the need for speakers that represent our community. "This is our stage," said Judy Andler, a staff person for the New England March Committee. "We haven't been to Washington for issues since 1979.... We should hear queers from Stonewall — our history — people in the '50s during the witch-hunts." Andler called the list "very sanitized," saying Barbara Smith was the best choice.

The speakers raising hackles highest seem to be Lowell Weicker and Elie Weisel.

Mary Prendergast, also on staff in New England, took issue with Weicker, saying, "As Republicans go, he is slightly more forgivable, but it's an outrage." Ortiz called the choice "incomprehensible" and Pat Norman said Weicker was "not my idea."

Andler, who is Jewish, said she disagreed with the choice of Weisel because "he is not someone who has made the connections between lesbian/gay and anti-Semitic oppression. He's not a bridge to the Jewish community, he's alienating." Some activists said Weisel's recent change of heart to recognize gay victims of the Holocaust was a positive development, but that his support of U.S. policy in Central America and in the Middle East make him a poor choice. "There's a question of Palestinian rights in his lack of criticism of Israel," said Scoppettuolo.

Activists on the march appear

divided on the selection of Jesse Jackson with many saying they support the choice with reservations. Prendergast called Jackson "among the best of all the speakers" but said, "I've always sensed he is uncomfortable with gays." Andler said, "I have to question his pro-family positions. He isn't pro-sex. My fear is that he's more mainstreaming, taking on more conservative stands to succeed in the electoral process."

Mixed feelings were also expressed about Chavez, with some questions about whether he is supportive of abortion rights and of other feminist positions. Norman told GCN she believes Chavez is "supportive of our issues. He walks with us, marches with us, talks with us.... As progressives, we look for somebody who embodies the purest of the pure — that's not going to happen."

Some march organizers also criticized the choice of Ellie Smeal, describing her as "centrist" and unwilling to take chances on lesbian/gay issues. Norman said she thinks, "Smeal validates our movement by her support."

Both Norman and Ault emphasized that the March organizers must balance very diverse constituencies from radical to conservative. "You won't have total agreement on all issues," said Ault. "People will have flaws from somebody's perspective." Norman said, "There's every kind of ideology going on here. We're making every accommodation to make certain no one is left out."

Organizing the Disabled Community

Progress appears to be slow in organizing the disabled community for the March. Bruce Rose of Atlanta, the only disabled member of the steering committee, told GCN he needs more support to reach disabled lesbians and gay men across the country. "I feel like I'm doing this alone," said Rose. "I'm the only person on the steering committee who is doing this work." He said he has "not been met with open hostility or with lip-service, but with compassion and concern" on the steering committee. "But I would like to see the same commitment to dis-

abled people as we have to the people of color caucus.... The disabled community is not well-organized. How do you reach a community that is largely invisible?"

Rose said he is urging steering committee members to help organize in local disabled communities. He added that scholarships for disabled people to attend the March are very important because 70 percent of disabled people do not have earned income.

Racism

While the March has made a clear commitment to fight racism and sexism along with homophobia, members of the People of Color Caucus cite on-going problems. Some regions are apparently putting out March brochures without the anti-racism, anti-sexism statement adopted, and according to

Loren Laureano, people of color in the South Central region are experiencing bigotry, especially women. Laureano said he has been excluded from March events in Texas to which white steering committee members were invited.

Some activists for the March, both white and people of color, continue to debate the lack of a specific demand for an end to U.S. intervention in Central America. National literature does include a mention of the issue and regional literature may include a specific demand for an end to U.S. war in Nicaragua. However, some March workers continue to insist the issues should have been accepted as a demand. "If we're going to take on South Africa, we should take on Central America as well," said Andler.

What about the Midwest?

Civil Disobedience

Continued from page 1

plan is to have affinity groups approach the steps in waves — creating a continuous motion towards the Court. Each affinity group may focus on a particular theme or plan an action apart from that organized by the scenario committee. A legal permit for a rally at a park across from the Supreme Court has been obtained. But if more than 300 people enter the park, police have said that rally would be illegal.

Police units have agreed to allow March organizers to conduct staff trainings regarding AIDS and civil disobedience.

Non-violent civil disobedience trainings are being planned in numerous states. People who are not currently in affinity groups can go to such trainings and meet other people to form an affinity group. All participants in the civil disobedience action are expected to have undergone non-violence training.

Much of the work, including planning for the action, fundraising and outreach, remains to be done. From the July 4 meetings it was clear that many issues regarding race and gender are not resolved. In a meeting of 35 people, Loren Laureano, who is

Latino, was the only person of color. He was also the only person with AIDS. Throughout the meeting, Laureano stated he felt the burden of attempting to represent the interests of people of color and people with AIDS — a feat he acknowledged is impossible.

While outreach was put on the agenda, it was not discussed until the end of the second day, when many people had already left the meeting. Consequently outreach plans will be left up to local civil disobedience committees.

Gender issues were first addressed when one man noted that although there were more women than men at the meeting, the men were doing the bulk of the talking. Later in the meeting, when a woman suggested that gay men assume much responsibility for fundraising because men have more access to money than women, a short argument ensued. One man threatened to leave the meeting if he was going to be "blamed" for being a man. National March staff person Lee Bush noted that most of the money raised by the march to this date has come from lesbians — specifically from money raised at

March organizers who are active in the Midwest and South Central region claim there is a lack of attention to anything outside the urban centers on the West and East Coasts. "Discussion often happens minus the Midwest," said steering committee member Ann Degroot of Minneapolis. "There's a pooh-poohing of the Midwest."

Laureano, of Texas, agreed, saying, "Many of the struggles are between New York and California. Money talks and power talks. The middle part of the country is ignored."

The Wedding

Another issue continuing to raise ire is the planned mass wedding in which long-term gay and lesbian couples are invited to participate. The wedding is designed to draw attention to the lack of

Continued on page 11

the Southern Women's Music and Comedy Festival.

Despite these problems, people left the meetings energized, ready to do work in their own communities. "The time is right," said Jessica Shubow, a member of the Boston Committee. Shubow would not venture a guess as to how many people will participate in the civil disobedience action but the "momentum is going quite remarkably."

Flowing Margaret Johnson, from St. Louis, Missouri, said as long as she was not protected as a woman or a lesbian she had a "moral obligation" to partake in actions such as civil disobedience at the Supreme Court. "The power structure of white male heterosexuals is not going to yield power unless [it is] threatened economically or politically."

Added momentum for the civil disobedience is expected to come from recent direct action organizing on AIDS. Approximately one-quarter of the people who attended the July 4 meeting were members of Act Up, a New York based organization which has organized a number of AIDS-related civil disobedience actions.

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Author Irena Klepfisz

Anti-Semitism and the Lesbian Community

By Gerard Koskovich

Poet and activist Irena Klepfisz speaks forcefully about the experience of social exclusion and oppression. As a Holocaust survivor, lesbian, feminist, and leftist, Klepfisz brings a rare depth of personal insight to her analysis of the struggle for social change.

"It's a very tricky business" to balance an identity as a Jew and a lesbian, Klepfisz says. "I can't describe to you the utter fear that I often experience around this issue. The closer it gets to home, the more fearful I am. It's the fear of losing that home."

Author of *Periods of Stress* and *Keeper of Accounts*, contributor to *Nice Jewish Girls: A Lesbian Anthology* and co-editor of *The Tribe of Dina: A Jewish Women's Anthology*, Klepfisz made her remarks in a recent talk at Stanford University entitled "On Jewish Lesbian Activism."

Born in Warsaw in 1941, Klepfisz came to the United States with her mother in 1949. The two women were the only members of the Klepfisz family to escape the Nazi Holocaust. "I am what is called a child survivor," Klepfisz said.

In the U.S., Klepfisz and her mother settled in Brooklyn, where the poet continues to make her home. She grew up in a supportive community of Holocaust survivors, many of them members of the Jewish Labor Bund.

"It was from those people that I learned politics," Klepfisz recalled. "'Never cross a picket line' was one of the major tenets unto death. An identity with workers, understanding the problem of poverty — in many ways, [these] classical socialist principles seemed to me quite ordinary."

After studies at City College of New York and the University of Chicago, Klepfisz came to terms with her lesbian identity in 1973.

Klepfisz published her first book, *Periods of Stress*, in 1976. It combined poetry about her experiences as a Holocaust survivor with lesbian coming out poems. According to Klepfisz, the combination proved problematic for both the Jewish community and the lesbian-feminist community.

"There was this section on the Holocaust, which the [Jewish] community really identified with. They were moved by it and told me that they approved," Klepfisz recalled. "[But] I never heard anything [from them] about the rest of the book — ever."

"What's interesting is that in the lesbian community, they didn't quite understand why the

book should have this Jewish part," Klepfisz said. "They really didn't know what to do with the Holocaust poetry."

According to Klepfisz, she first identified the impact of her exclusion as a lesbian from the Jewish community and as a Jew from the lesbian-feminist community while working on an essay for the 1982 anthology *Nice Jewish Girls*.

"I realized in writing the piece how angry I was, how alienated and how rejected I felt that I could not really enter the Jewish community and be who I wanted to be," she explained.

"At the same time, I was very angry at the lesbian community, feeling that the anti-Semitism was really quite palpable — and feeling an enormous amount of disappointment, as all of you must experience, if you enter any kind of movement with a great deal of hope of transformation... and you find out that people are people and they carry their baggage with them," she continued.

Klepfisz identified several factors beyond the homophobia and anti-Semitism of American society as a whole that explain the difficulties Jewish lesbians face in the Jewish community and the women's community.

Recalling her mother's frightened reaction to her coming out, Klepfisz explained that "it was partly homophobia, but it was also a Jewish response in terms of protecting me. She didn't say it directly, but she definitely communicated the message that I didn't need another thing in this world for the mainstream to harm me, that as a Jew and a survivor, you kept a low profile."

"I think there's been resistance [to accepting lesbians] in the Jewish community for that reason," Klepfisz remarked. "I don't want to excuse the homophobia or gloss over it, but I think there's also this real psychological element in it."

In the women's community, Klepfisz sees "an unfortunate fear that by focusing on Jewish issues, you're going to drain energy from other issues."

"There's a kind of scarcity theory, that we don't have enough energy for everything and everybody; if you add one more thing to the list, you're not going to have enough energy to deal with Third-World issues, with working class issues, with all kinds of things that are more important," she explained.

Another difficulty is the fact

that "anti-Semitism and Jewish issues don't fit a mold," Klepfisz said. "For example a lot of people say, 'Well, many Jews are middle-class. They have a certain amount of material comfort. So why should we address the issue of anti-Semitism?'"

"There's not a real understanding of the nature of anti-Semitism and what Jews experience, because of the very narrow categories within the women's movement of how they classify oppression," Klepfisz continued. "You don't just experience oppression because you're poor."

Recently, Klepfisz has seen signs of positive change in the Jewish community. She noted the formation of a lesbian support group in the New York section of the American Council of Jewish Women as one example.

"There's been real movement [in the Jewish community]," Klepfisz said. "There's more acceptance. [But] it's never what you want or as much as you want."

Klepfisz also sees a greater willingness to address Jewish issues in the women's movement. She cited

Black and gay liberation

Double Struggle

By D. J. Johnson

I came to Boston in 1975 from a small midwestern town to attend Boston University. I was an American History major and looked forward with eagerness and anticipation to studying and living in this city of history, culture and tradition.

The fall of '75 saw violence in Boston and the turmoil precipitated by court-ordered busing. As members of some white communities were allowed to use their vehement opposition to desegregation as a subterfuge to terrorize the city, I became acutely aware of my identity as a Black man and subsequently as a gay man.

Previous to my arrival here I had notions of Boston being a very liberal and open city. My experiences in Boston in general, and in gay bars and with white gays in particular, disabused me very quickly of my romantic notions about the liberalism of this city. Those experiences in gay bars also shed light on my belief that white gay men, because of their oppression by straight society, are sensitive to the oppression of others. That too was a myth.



Irena Klepfisz in Boston, 11/21/82.

the National Women's Studies Association, which "has been enormously resistant to Jewish women's needs." The group "finally succumbed" last year and held a workshop to sensitize non-Jews to issues of anti-Semitism.

Klepfisz's talk was sponsored by Stanford's Jewish Studies Program, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Inno-

vative Academic Courses and several other Stanford organizations as part of a conference on "Women's Studies/Jewish Studies: Convergences."

Two of Klepfisz's books are available by mail: *Keeper of Accounts* (\$6.95) and *The Tribe of Dina* (\$11.20) from Sinister Wisdom Books, P.O. Box 1308, Montpelier, VT 05602.

ness of someones' little hearts but because we are now actively taking legal action against those bars who discriminate. And we now follow through with those actions rather than giving up, as I did in 1980 when I and others filed complaints against a bar in Copley Square.

While the public practice may have improved, I suspect the attitudes and perceptions of white gays towards the Black gay community have remained virtually unchanged. We are the invisible community. When white gay people approach us they see only their surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination — indeed anything and everything except us. Ralph Ellison pointed this out in his book *Invisible Man* 30 years ago in reference to white people in general. Sometimes it seems even more *apropos* to the gay community. The cardinal truth about white society in general and white gays in particular is that neither of them has ever seen Blacks as anything other than a "race," a "group," as "you people." Often when I am on the

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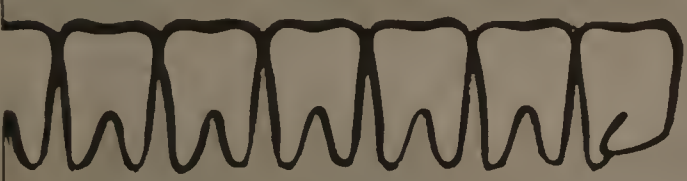
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J.O. TO THE WORLD

By John Jackoff
Old Habits Die Hard

Though many gay men have changed their sexual behavior in response to the current crisis, it is unfortunate that many have not changed sufficiently. While the incidence of new AIDS cases shows that past efforts at prevention were not fully effective, the classifieds in gay publications, as well as other evidence, show that among a part of the gay male world sexuality continues much as before. Lack of symptoms or a negative HIV test is taken as assurance of absence of infection in oneself or a potential partner. Unsafe practices are being continued under the label of "safe sex" or "health conscious," which can mean as little as "I've cut back from twice a week to twice a month," or "I know who he is, he's not a stranger." This behavior can no longer be explained, as the result of ignorance. The transmission of a fatal disease through sexual acts continues, and one can only conclude that people are ignoring or denying the risk. They seemingly find reduced risk for reduced pleasure a poor bargain.

Among those who have changed their behavior in response to the crisis, or who have come out since the crisis began, there are feelings of loss and anger. Their suffering is not only a personal burden but an obstacle to change among those still in danger. There is a hope that a vaccine will permit life to resume as before. A vaccine is not even on the horizon, however, nor could it help those already exposed. Even with a cure for AIDS we would still be left with hepatitis, gastro-intestinal diseases, and herpes. We are not going back to the sexual lifestyle of the '70s, nor do we need to.

Non-Medical Threats

Thinking and talking about sex has become newly respectable. The country, out of desperation, is willing to consider new, even radical ideas. The realities of sexual behavior are being imposed on the world's consciousness. If we do not take ad-

vantage of the opportunity this creates we run the very real risk that politicians will do so.

Testing people for the HIV virus in order to sexually segregate the exposed and the unexposed is not the answer. Besides the overwhelming practical problems, testing and separating people is a socially noxious idea which feeds into the hands of the right wing.

The answer, and the challenge, is to make disease-transmitting activities lose their attractiveness. The first step is to examine why existing efforts have not had the desired success.

A major reason is the shortcomings of the safe sex guidelines which most sexually active gay males have read. There are several sets of safe sex guidelines. I am focusing on those most widely disseminated, which can be found in each issue of the *Advocate*. Their deficiencies are not medical but semantic and psychological.

What, for example, is meant by calling some sexual activities "possibly safe?" Activities that are "possibly safe" are also "possibly dangerous," aren't they? Other activities are "considered" safe. This is the passive voice of the bureaucrat and the buck-passer. The authors refuse to say without reservation that any activities are safe.

One cannot live a life completely without risk, and it is neurotic to try to do so. There is a risk in flying in an airplane, driving a car, or even crossing the street, yet within guidelines society deems these risks acceptable and the conduct safe. A desire to avoid any conceivable risk of infection (a spillover, perhaps, from cancer policy) has led to the censoring as only "possibly safe" activities with such miniscule risk as kissing and cunnilingus. Lumping insignificant, acceptable risks with those which are dangerous detracts from the warning against the latter, and insisting that there is no "safe sex," only "safer sex," does the same.

The guidelines also ignore the fact that "unsafe" activities cannot transmit infection if they are practic-

ed by partners who are free of the diseases in question. In practice, this means monogamous couples.

The guidelines include "light S/M," among the activities, "considered safe," using "light" to say "without bleeding or bruising." The omission of heavy S/M, presumably equated with bleeding and bruising, even from the "unsafe" list speaks eloquently of the author's bias. S/M, which is not even mentioned in the guidelines of the New York Physicians for Human Rights, is concerned primarily with power and submission, secondarily with the erotic value of pain, and rarely with the activities involving bloodshed. The point which the guidelines failed to make is that skin is a natural barrier. A break in the skin facilitates the transmission of infectious disease into or out of the body.

Safe sex guidelines encourage the use of rubbers, but rubbers are not ideal. Not only do they have a failure rate (two rubbers have recently been suggested), but sex with rubbers is impoverished sex. No one, including those who promote rubbers, prefers them. It is not just the diminished sensation but the loss of intimacy sought even in anonymous sexual encounters. The barrier is antithetical, in reality and symbol, to the goals of the activity.

In sum, the hidden message of these safe sex guidelines is that the less sex you have, the safer you are. Pleasure and safety are opposites, they imply, and one must choose the latter. I disagree.

The Masturbation Sensation!

The remedy is not to prohibit and deprive, nor is it the distribution of better safe sex guidelines, although that would be a good idea. The real answer is to make safe sex hot, so hot that a change in behavior is an obvious step forward. This is already happening, but at nowhere near the speed that the crisis calls for. Here are my suggestions, some original and some borrowed, on that topic. Nothing would make me happier than

for others to add to them. I am glad to acknowledge the inspiration of Harvey Fierstein and Max Exander.

Sex is safe if it does not have the potential for transfer of microorganisms from one body to another. Any shared anal activity has that potential, and oral ingestion of body fluids does as well. Sex which does not have that potential is masturbatory. Masturbation, which I use to refer to any type of orgasm which does not involve interpersonal insertion, needs to become the primary sexual activity for gay men.

A large proportion of orgasms are and have always been masturbatory. Masturbation needs to be given support from the gay community and from health authorities. It needs to be sanctioned and blessed, so as to remove the stigma of a second-class activity which it unfairly retains. One can both hear and infer such attitudes, as "real men go out and fuck and suck each other," or "tricking's how you meet people." While seemingly against masturbation, such statements are actually calling for human contact, and not without reason. There are too many people jerking off alone in front of their VCRs. They want and need to have sexual contact with others.

The first step, then, is to get people jerking-off in pairs. I am mystified why this is not as popular as it should be. For me, mutual masturbation is the hottest and most reciprocal sex act two men can indulge in. Hands can do more to and for a dick than the anal sphincter can. One can watch a cock being jerked off and watch it come, while in anal or oral sex it is much less visible. One can eat his own cum with no worries at all. One can put two cocks together, which is impossible (all right, very difficult) during intercourse. A cock in the mouth not only inhibits conversation but means the mouth cannot lick, kiss or bite many other places well worth those attentions. If one wants something up his ass, there are plenty of toys for that purpose. Some are larger than the largest dick.



Sex involving insertion is limited to a pair or at most three partners. Groups, save staged tableaux in porno movies, are collections of pairs. Masturbation, however, can easily and genuinely be a group activity. I refer to the circle jerk, the roomful of men with hard dicks, exhibiting, watching, cumming. Being part of a circle of masturbating men is intense and bonding. In that fraternity, all are equal.

The Rise and Rise of the Safe Sex Slut!

Masturbation, in short, needs to be promoted as both a pair and a group activity. As it cannot transmit disease, it can, if desired, be both impersonal and promiscuous. To begin, masturbatory activities can be organized by gay groups: gay bars and clubs, campus gay organizations, gay religious groups. Brochures with suggestions for setting up jerk-off clubs can be written and distributed. Sexual signals, such as a shoulder patch saying "Let's Jerk Off" or a rear-pocket bandanna, need to be agreed upon and publicized. Masturbatory subgroups of specialized interests would surely emerge.

We need masturbational activities at the state and national levels: conventions, competitions, awards. There could be jerk-off teams and leagues sponsored by businesses, perhaps. Religious rituals centered around group masturbation and orgasm could be developed and supported. We need National Masturbation Month and masturbation festivals.

A new profession, the masturbation or fantasy leader, is being born and needs recognition. Such persons already serve individuals by phone; they could lead groups as well. We need participatory pornography, in which the actors, instead of putting on a performance for viewers to watch, invite the audience to join them in beating off. This would be masturbatory theater, whether live or on tape.

The sex industry has a rôle to play as well. Sites for masturbation, which in private is legal everywhere, need to be available every day in all cities with the gay communities to support them. We need a masturbatory version of the backroom, the baths, the south of Market club. Such a place would encourage watching and exhibiting, yet permit moderate privacy if desired. I'll let some horny architect or designer work out the details.

"Phone sex," already off to a good start in certain communities, needs to spread further and come down in cost. Publications could have sections for ads seeking phone contact in addition to a general masturbation ad section. Smaller gay communities can provide a bulletin board which those who wish local phone sex can make contact with each other. We should express our opposition to laws which may prohibit obscene calls between consenting adults. Commercial phone sex services should be reviewed in gay publications.

All of this, by making non-masturbatory activities less attractive and out of fashion, would go far to reduce sexual transmission of AIDS and other diseases, and that would not be the only benefit. A masturbation movement would also strengthen our sense of community. More important, it would be fun, and we all could use more of that. Orgasms fight AIDS. For that matter, orgasms fight depression, illness and war. Let's get cumming.

"...and the beat goes on"

The call for National Masturbation Month and Jerk-off Tournaments *et al.* are exciting and utopian ideals. Would that the horny gay man of the not-too-distant future could go to one of many "Jerkaterias" for his lunch hour; or could belong to groups of supportive enthusiasts which celebrate, rather than denigrate, the joys of autoerotica.

In Boston, we've been able to read about the San Francisco and New York Jacks, fraternal clubs dedicated to the fine art of group Onanism, but several years after their debut, such an organization doesn't even appear to be on the horizon in the New England area. Apparently those who would profit and those who could benefit from the proliferation of Masturbation-As-Exciting-and-Fulfilling-Pastime are unmotivated to initiate such an endeavor. Or maybe the needs are being met in other ways.

While it's true that there are no JO Tournaments to rival an NBA Playoff series, there certainly are plenty of pickup games being played in a myriad of places around town. A watchful eye on a casual cruise through the Boston area will reveal more circle jerks than you can shake a stick, or anything else, at.

A few years ago, many political analysts predicted a return to the sexual conservatism of the Fifties under the watchful guide of the Reagan Administration. Why should it come as any surprise, then, that if you're able to find a public restroom (or anywhere else that it's acceptable to whip out your wee-wee) you're quite likely to walk in on two or more men in the throes of masturbational ecstasy?

With all due thanks to the President: the Tea Room Lives! In bus stations and museums, porn theaters (both gay-identified and non-), science centers and other spots in most of the major universities, from Faneuil Hall to the heart of Cambridge, it is happening. Men are watching men jerk-off, and while they do so, masturbating themselves.

And let's not forget the great outdoors; porcelain fixtures are not a must for the impromptu group grope. From highway rest stops to the venerable Fens, it doesn't even matter if the land has been set aside as a sanctuary for our feathered friends; if enough men (many of whom don't consider themselves gay) stomp down paths in the middle of the same patch of woods, the Beat-o-Rama will continue.

Most of the masturbation scenes I've recently observed in the above-mentioned locales have rarely, if ever, drifted into those forms of bodily contact which could be deemed unsafe. In fact, there is a surprising corollary between high traffic, increased risk of detection, and strictly safe sex masturbation behaviors. In a public library tea room where security guards and employees are among the parade-like throng passing through, one is likely to consider the urge to get involved in anything more than self stimulation while watching his fellow beaters do the same is an invitation to arrest. Somehow getting busted is perceived as a more immediate threat than that of sexually transmitted disease.

"People oftentimes get arrested for the 'crime' of being in a place where the police believe that gay sex is going on," says Kevin Cathcart of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. "The police will often lie about what they've seen to justify the arrests. Lots of times clients have told me that they've been someplace looking for sex but that they'd barely made it out of their cars, or into the woods; or that they'd touched an undercover cop's shoulder and been busted. It's also important to realize that it's a myth to think that all that ever happens in these places is safe sex. The reality is that plenty of people are behaving in a way that some would consider unsafe."

Just what is happening out there? On a recent Saturday night of voyeurism, my lover and I strolled through a tree-lined area in the Fenway section of Boston that is known by some to be a cruising place. While the majority of people were doing nothing more than walking around, and a few pairs and trios were jerking-off, we were surprised to see some applying mouths to genitals.

"I can't believe they could be so reckless," I whispered. My immediate judgmental attitude, which sounded so similar to those undercover detectives who helped shut down the Mineshaft in New York, was tempered by an even more recent daytime excursion along those same footpaths. There were more used condoms per square foot lining those walkways than there are *USA Today* vending machines in most metropolitan areas.

The bottom line is, of course, that affordable (perhaps sliding-scale) private facilities for consenting adults in which masturbation is the optimal, glorified behavior would do much to alleviate the chances for legal hassles, health problems and boredom. The scene would, unfortunately be devoid of the rebellious revolutionary thrill and adrenal rush of public sex, but that would be replaced by a heightened feeling of camaraderie that hundreds of men silently happen upon in tea rooms and wooded areas every day.

•Christopher Wittke

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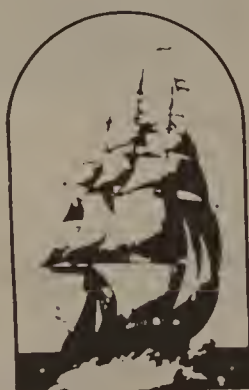
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**Double
Struggle**

Continued from page 7

street I pass whites with whom I
am acquainted. They look at me
but do not see me. When I rouse
them from their somnambulism
they are thrilled, startled and often
embarrassed, taking great pains to
assure no slight was intended.
What they see is a Black face, not
the individual distinctions that
make up the face, that make up the
personality. Since most whites are
afraid of Blacks, they don't bother
to look beyond and distinguish
one Black face from another —
"They all look alike to me."

It is difficult to discuss racism in
the gay community without ref-
erence to whites in general. White
straights and white gays are for the
most part cut from the same cloth.
What has become quite clear to me
is that white gays see themselves as
primarily gay only in relation to
other white gays, and that many
white gays are unable to think in-
dependently of their whiteness.
The actions of white gays are in
direct correlation to their
whiteness, not to their gayness. If
such were the case, the elimination
of racism and discrimination in the
gay community would not be a
task of such mythic proportions,
and white gays would be aware of
their own oppression. Instead they
have chosen to identify with the
very society that oppresses them.

Individuals within the white gay
community have broken through
this race identification. They are
working to end racism, within
themselves and within the gay
community institutions. As the
gay community in general slowly
works through its problems, so
does the Black gay community and
other gay people of color. We have
done it with some very vocal and
enthusiastic support from the
white community.

*This is the second in a series of
articles written by members of the
People of Color Task Force, a
component of the Boston
Committee for the March on
Washington on October 11. For
more details, call 267-7723 or
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dability. But they're ready for anything and
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Reprinted from Real Paper, "Best of Boston,"
Fall 1980.

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March on Washington

Continued from page 6

benefits lesbian and gay domestic partners receive. Brenda Howard of New York said, "Those of us who are criticizing the wedding want to emphasize we respect other people's relationships, but we feel the movement needs to fight for everyone's rights to housing, health care, and chosen families without trying to convince the government we deserve these rights because our relationships look like heterosexual families."

Prendergast of Boston concurred, saying, "The wedding validates only traditional relationships. It's opposed to a gay

lifestyle which means community."

While debates continue, steering committee members and March workers across the country continue organizing at topspeed. It won't be perfect, they say, but there's no opportunity like it to come together, to make a public statement, to demand what we need for our lives.

To contact the National March Committee: write P.O. Box 7781, Washington, DC 20044, or call, (202) 783-1828/1830. To contact

the S/M—Leather Contingent: write S/M—Leather Contingent, c/o GMSMA, 132 W. 24th St., New York, NY 10011.

—filed from Boston

Correction

A photo appearing with a story entitled "Calif. Queers: Lock up Weapons, Not People" in Vol. 15, No. 1 should have been credited to Tom Alleman. Our apologies to Tom and our to readers.

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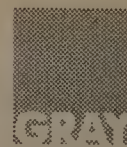
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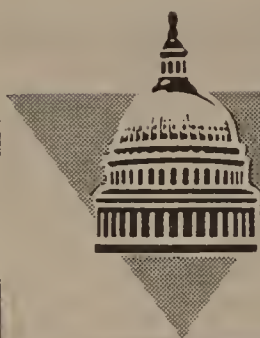
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Adorably sweet BiWF seeks JP apt to share with warm relaxed GM. Can move Sept 1. Call Irene 524-5449. (4)

LF 40 seeking LF with apt to share. I'm easy going, quiet, smoke cigs and have a cat. Looking for an apt in Boston Camb area. If you have a place please call 877-1912 or 738-5595 and leave msg. (4)

HELP!

Our JP apt is being sold and we're being priced out of the neighborhood. We're 2LF's looking for an already established apartment with 1 or more LF's or 1 or 2 LF's who want to look for an apt with us. No smoke or pets. We're looking to move anywhere between late Aug or early Oct. Call Kim at GCN at 426-4469 (days) or 522-6813 (eve). (C)

2 L's (25, 29) seek 2 women to share a semi-coop home. We enjoy laughter, polarity, politics, greenery, communication & no allergens. If you would like to find a house with us, or know of one, Call Nancy or Barbara at 623-5035 or B at W: 643-2442. Prefer near Arlington/Somerv. (15)

RESORTS**LESBIAN BED & BREAKFAST**

Room in Southampton, L.I. & apt in NYC. (No smokers please) Available for wknds & wkly rentals. Reasonable rates. (718) 625-2653. (15.4)

WHITE MOUNTAIN MAGIC

Long, lazy days by our pool, cool nights by a crackling fire. Peace & privacy on 100 beautiful acres. Charming guest rooms. Gracious, common areas. Hiking, golf, tennis, antiquing nearby. The Highlands Inn, Box 118G, Bethlehem NH 03574. (603) 869-3978. Grace & Judith, innkeepers. (15.11)

**CHECK'ER OUT
AT THE CHECK'ER INN**

Double rooms, coffee by fireside, parking. Apartments also available. 1 block to bay, open year/round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St., P'town, MA 02657 (46)

FOR SALE

1987 BOSTON PRIDE T-SHIRTS
All colors, all sizes small through 4XL. \$11.50 Includes delivery. Act now, quantity limited. Call 267-2113 or write Box 8916, Boston, MA 02114. (3)

ORGANIZATIONS**GAY YOUTH
COMMUNITY FUND**

Sponsors of youth/student projects send tax-deductable donations payable to: GYCC/Capp St. Foundation. Mail to: GYCF, 2215-R Market St., Suite 479, San Francisco, CA 94114. (30)

OLDER LESBIAN ENERGY

Social and support group for women over 40. P.O. Box 1214, East Arlington, MA 02174. (48)

DOB

Support organization for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCBC. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8pm. Special raps for 35+, parents, ynger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (35)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER
Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (V16.1)

**BOSTON ALLIANCE OF GAY AND
LESBIAN YOUTH**

Social support group for youth 22 and under. Wed. night general meeting from 7:30-9pm. New persons meeting at 6:30. Women's meeting at 6. Call 497-8282 for info. (32)

SHELIX

Northampton, MA lesbian s/m support group since 1983 mets monthly for topic discussions. Safe confidential environment. Lesbians at all levels of fantasy or practice welcome. Newcomers encouraged. Sase: Shelix, PO Box 416 Florence Station, Northampton, MA 01060. (7)

PROJECT TRUTH/FREE WILL

Info packet on police abuse of gay teens, and ways it can be stopped. 1 yr membership \$20. Info \$2 (for postage & printing) to: Project TRUTH/Free Will, PO Box 244, Paramus, NJ 07653-0244. (9)

MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones ST. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (23)

MOVERS**POOR PEOPLES MOVERS**

new & used boxes delivered
packing and storing
522-0826 (15.20)

THE JIM CLARK MOVING COMPANY

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Very careful furniture movers.
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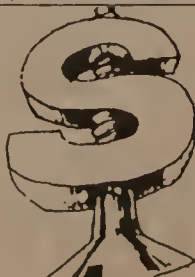
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236-1848**SUMMER RENTALS****PROVINCETOWN COTTAGE**

2 Bedrm cott. Bayside 5 min. walk to beach, plenty of parking, heated and clean. \$450. wk July and Aug. off season \$350 wk. Call 289-5807. (5)

REAL ESTATE**TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE
JAMAICA PLAIN**

100% renovated brand new in and out skylights hrdwd flrs 1 1/2 tiled baths 1150+ sq ft minute walk to Stonybrook stop. \$149,900.00. 361-1096. (4)

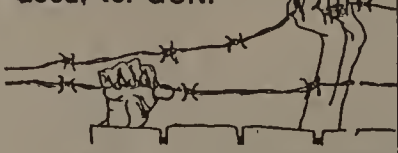


Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF
PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE
(Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an
Anarchist)

**HELP! DICTIONARIES!!!**

One of the 'facts of life' folks is that prisoners are often without much 'education' (which is partly why they're where they are: hard to get jobs, hard to deal with the legal jargon). PLEASE send any old dictionaries (paperback or not), or \$ to buy some used, to: GCN.

**NOTE TO PEOPLE WHO WRITE PRISONERS:**

If you get no response (rare) from writing one of the prisoners, it may be because he/she has been moved to another prison (and they don't usually forward mail). One of prisons' main ways to destroy attempts by prisoners to defend themselves with lawsuits and to form "unions" and social support networks generally is to keep moving the "troublemakers" (the type that read GCN, for example) from one prison to another. It is also a form of punishment for activism to move them away from where their families and friends live.

WRITING PRISONERS: 'Refused'

If your mail is returned to you marked "Refused", it doesn't mean the prisoner refused it; it was probably the mailroom and often ONLY the mailroom. Often a quick note to the warden asking WHY this mail is being refused (since you're certain it isn't the prisoner refusing it) will sometimes 'clear up' the problem. Prisons are full of Christians etc. trying to save the savages; especially the queer ones.



There are LOTS more poor people than rich people. To keep the poor people from demanding their share, the society makes them feel bad about themselves, so they don't feel that they DESERVE to have more.

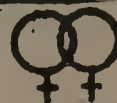
The same is true for prisons. There are LOTS more prisoners than guards and to keep you all "in line" they use these feelings you bring in with you from the outside and make them stronger: blacks against whites against hispanics, straights against gays, old against young, "ugly" against "pretty", etc etc etc.

HALFWAY HOUSE

If you are looking for a Halfway House for your post-release plans, this address may be useful: International Halfway House Association, 500 N. Washington St, Alexandria VA 22314.



NAMBLA (North American Man/Boy Love Association) Bulletins are available FREE to persons imprisoned for sex with minors. Write to Rock Thatcher, PO Box 70810, Ft. Lauderdale FL 33307.

**FRIENDS NEEDED**

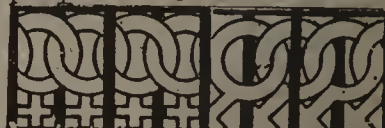
I would like to correspond with real, honest women to share interests and my life in here and fear of freedom. I love music, outdoors, writing poetry, and good friends. Marcia STAACK, W24343-407-09C, PO Box 1800, Norco CA 91760.

PAMELA — Happy Birthday to my Leo with all of her pride. Your Scorpio will ALWAYS be by your side. Alecia

**TV-TS Support**

Any Incarcerated gays or TSs can contact the below prisoners for info on the legal, surgical, endocrinological (hormonal), or psychological aspects of TS and the law. Write either Allyn Scubner, 380398, Ellis 1, Huntsville TX 77343; or, Vanessa Meriwether, 244993, Box 30, Pendleton, IN 46064.

Northwest Transvestite/ Transsexual Contact Service Provides a 24 hour hotline. TSs and admirers in Wash. (state), Oregon, Idaho and Northern Cal. Also, info on plastic surgery, electrolysis, and hormone therapy. 600 E. Pine St, Seattle WA 98122. (206)329-TVTS.



Black man in "protection" [isolation] in Montana! Would truly appreciate some contact (friendship) with a GCN reader. Bobby NORRIS, A017747, 700 Conley Lake Rd, Deer Lodge MT 59722.

Hey PISCATAWAY!!!

Would T. Henderson PLEASE return the photos that Charles DePierro, a prisoner, sent him. They are the only ones he has of his now dead mother and father. DePierro's address is: 82A6068, Box 149, Attica, NY 14011

I wish to obtain information on how to participate in your "prisoners seeking friends" adds. Your newspaper is terrific! It supplies a means of communication to my fellow homosexuals and neighbors. Ricky MOULDER, 15371-077 Unit 7, Box 1000, Seagoville TX 75159

I'm from North Carolina and looking for penpals and friendship. I enjoy reading, music, and writing. Timothy MANUS, 85A-8326, 135 State St, Auburn NY 13024.

I will be in here for a long time. I work in the kitchen and go to school in the afternoons. I'm also co-chair of our A.A. group. I would like to get your newspaper and write someone. Thank you. John BUTLER, 073072, Box 1100-1295, Avon Park FL 33825.

Jamaican born gay male seeks anyone who is interested in true friendship. [Delanco wrote a great piece for the last issue of Fag Rag!] Delanco KCAY, 86A 3448, Box 1245, Beacon NY 12508.

Black, handsome, romantic, poet desires warm friendship, tropical relationship. exotic experience. Mike Anthony JONES, 630395 IMU-H-1, Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362.

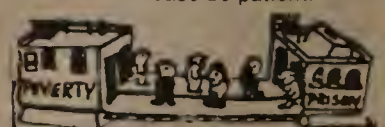
Gay 'Italian' would like to correspond with someone of true values and sincerity. I have 8 months left. Daniel PERRY, 884605, Box 1500, Cross City FL 32628.



I am from Cuba and I wonder if you can put me in your newspaper. I want to write sincere people who want friendship. Rodrique CABRALES 079550-408, Drawer 1072, Arcadia FL 33821.

I am a self-sufficient person (funds) but am looking for a penpal. I'm sexually freakish with a man of my caliber. I write poetry, songs and I like to read Kahlil Gibran. My main man in here is a philosopher. I hope you want to write. Richard OSBORNE, 184-686, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Gary (Brandy), Mike & Rick: I have not 'refused' any of your letters. It's the Administration. I'm trying to clear up this matter. Please be patient.



CALENDAR

**August 1
to
August 24**

august 1 saturday

Jamaica Plain — Community Radio Journalism Workshop. Madge Kaplan and Tania Schreiber. \$12. 10am-2pm. Bring lunch. Firehouse Arts Center, 659 Centre St. Info: 524-3816.

Boston — Women's Technical Workshop for women interested in **non-traditional careers**. 10:30am-noon. Free. Info: 266-2243.

2 sunday

Boston — "Boston's Other Voice" speaks with *Bay Windows* editor **Nan Donald**. WROR, 98.5 FM. 12:30-1am. Monday morning.

Boston — **Richard F. Schmidt's contemporary paintings** exhibit at "Gallery at the Piano Factory." 791 Tremont St. Thru August 16. Info: 769-6304.

3 monday

Cambridge — **Lesbian Entrepreneurs**. DOB, Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8pm. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge — **Bisexual Women's Network**. 7:30-9:45pm. **Lesbian rap** on drug and alcohol abuse, 8-10pm. **Former nun's lesbian support group**, 7pm. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Camb. Info: 354-8807.

4 tuesday

Boston — **Gay Fathers** of Greater Boston discussion: Life Schedules. 6 Hamilton Place, 3rd floor. 8pm. Info: 742-7897.

Cambridge — Legacy drop-ins for lesbian/gay **elders & friends**. GLCS, 6 Hamilton Place, 6-8pm. Info: 725-3485.

Boston — GLDC **visibility campaign** dancing at the Jukebox, Tremont St. No jeans, sneakers or t-shirts. No cover charge. 9pm. Info: 661-7737.

5 wednesday

Cambridge — **Lesbian AI/Anon. Women's Center**, 6:30-8:00pm. Childcare provided. 46 Pleasant St., Camb. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — **Women's music** summer special with Lindsay Ellison on "Say It Sister." WMBR 88.1 FM. 7-8PM.

6 thursday

Cambridge — "Are We Safer Now?" Showings of the films: *Hiroshima/Nagasaki: August, 1945* and *Crisis: Seven Days that Shook the World* in commemoration of the atomic bombings of Japan. Central Sq. Public Library. 7pm. Free (also showing on Sunday the 9th).

Boston — **Pride Committee meeting**. Boston City Hall, Rm. 801 (Congress St. Entrance). Election of officers for coming year. 7:30pm. Info: 267-2113.

Cambridge — "Central America Photographs," an exhibition by photographer Tom Mattie opens at Gallery 57, 57 Inman St., Camb., through August 28.

7 friday

Brookline — Am Tikva **Shabbat service**. All welcome. Bring something sweet to share. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. 8pm. Info: 782-8894.

Cambridge — **Women's Coffeehouse**: Indulgences with food. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Cambridge. 8pm-midnight. Info: 354-8807.



National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights

OCTOBER 11, 1987 • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Syracuse Cultural Workers © 1987

March on Washington Steering Committee, 12 wednesday

8 saturday

Boston — Am Tikva **Torah study** at Arnold Arboretum. Meet at main gate on Rte. 203. 10:30am. Info: 782-8894.

New London, CT — **Black & White Men Together and Men of All Colors/Connecticut** present a bus tour of Gillette Castle and Harkness Park. Bus leaves from Columbus Ave. at W. Newton St. in Boston at 10am. \$37 (covers bus, admissions and meals). Info: 547-1986, (401) 352-3638.

9 sunday

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian and Gay Neighbors **potluck picnic** at Jamaica Pond. Across from Moraine St. 4pm. No alcohol. Info: 522-6090.

Roxbury — Grandmothers Against Apartheid. **S. African women's day observance** at St. Mark's Congregational Church, 200 Townsend St. Donations of children's clothing will be collected for the ANC school in Tanzania. Free.

Boston — **LEGACY** goes to Tanglewood. Leave from Park St. station at 9am. Info and reservations: Ann or Kate, 725-3485.

10 monday

Cambridge — Gay and Lesbian **Speakers Bureau** planning meeting, 97 Trowbridge St. 7-8:30pm. Info: 354-0133.

Cambridge — **Lesbian AI/Anon. Women's Center**, 6:30-9:30pm. Childcare provided. 46 Pleasant St., Camb. Info: 354-8807.

11 tuesday

Boston — **Gay Fathers** of Greater Boston potluck supper. Info: 742-7897.

12 wednesday

Boston — NOW **lesbian rights** task force meeting. Boston Now office, 971 Commonwealth Ave. 7pm. Info: 782-1056.

Boston — **March on Washington steering committee** meeting. Piemonte Rm., Boston City Hall. 7pm. Use Federal St. entrance. Info: 442-9597.

Cambridge — **Tatiana Schreiber** hosts "Say it Sister" on WMBR 88.1 FM. 7-8pm.

14 friday

Boston — **Feminist and Lesbian Smith College Alumnae** potluck. Info: 969-6042.

15 saturday

Boston — **Older gay men's group** meeting. 6 Hamilton Pl. 2-4pm. Info: 725-4907

Provincetown — **Ten Percent Revue**, a lesbian and gay revue. Gifford House Cabaret, 9 Carver St. 8pm. Through Sept. 7. \$8. Info: 487-0688.

Boston — Harbor Cruise with **Gay Professional Women**, 7:30pm. Info: 585-6051 after 6pm.

Ogunquit, ME — **BILGA** fun trip to Ogunquit. Meet at 9:30am at 68 Bay State Rd. (Boston). Raindate: Aug. 16th. Info, rides: 437-7399.

16 sunday

Boston — **Boston harbor cruise** with Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain. Bring lunch. Reservations: 232-3479.

An Enemy Among Us.

The recent television special *An Enemy Among Us* was originally scheduled as a CBS "Schoolbreak Special," and it is clear that its intended audience was to have been adolescents. The protagonist is Scott Fischer (Danny Nucci), a 16-year-old boy who comes from the typical open, communicative, trusting, caring, white, upper-middle class family that we all grew up with. His mother (Dee Wallace Stone) is sweet, his father is strong but caring and his sister is young and thoughtful. He has a devoted best friend, Bart, and a new girlfriend, Karen. Everything in Scott's life is perfect, except his past.

It seems that he had been knocked from his bike three years earlier and had required blood transfusions to survive. Scott and his family are told by his doctor that "in those days blood was not screened, as it is now, for HIV antibodies and there was no way to know that the blood was contaminated." After the obligatory explosion from his father and the tears from his mother have subsided to a steely-eyed resolve, enter immunologist Donna Robinson (Gladys Knight). Somehow she convinces the family that it is in Scott's best interest for his high school administration to know that he is HIV positive. Naturally, word leaks out and everyone over-reacts. There is anger, fear, segregation. There is a frightening blur of vocabulary in every character from the doctor on down. "HIV positive" becomes synonymous with "infected." No one in this reactionary town seems to understand that Scott doesn't have AIDS. Eventually the doctor gives a sex-negative pep talk which calms down the populace and Scott returns to school minus one girlfriend.

This teleplay is rife with unenlightened and insensitive dialogue, but at least it puts information in front of those pre- and early teens who need it, since they are having such a hard time getting it at home or in school. It tells them that AIDS is not just a disease of the high risk groups with which we are all so familiar. It even manages to touch on the frustration of becoming an adult and being told that sex is "out."

The most important message in all of this, however, is one I'm not sure the producers mean to send. That is: no matter how well-intentioned a person or a group may be, there simply is no way to insure confidentiality of HIV status. This is a very important message indeed, because, until both those who are HIV positive and People With AIDS can be sure that they will not be discriminated against; it is unwise to allow that information to be made readily available to the public. This subliminal message gives a flawed TV movie like *An Enemy Among Us* a degree of validity it couldn't manage to achieve on purpose.

—Sherman Hanke

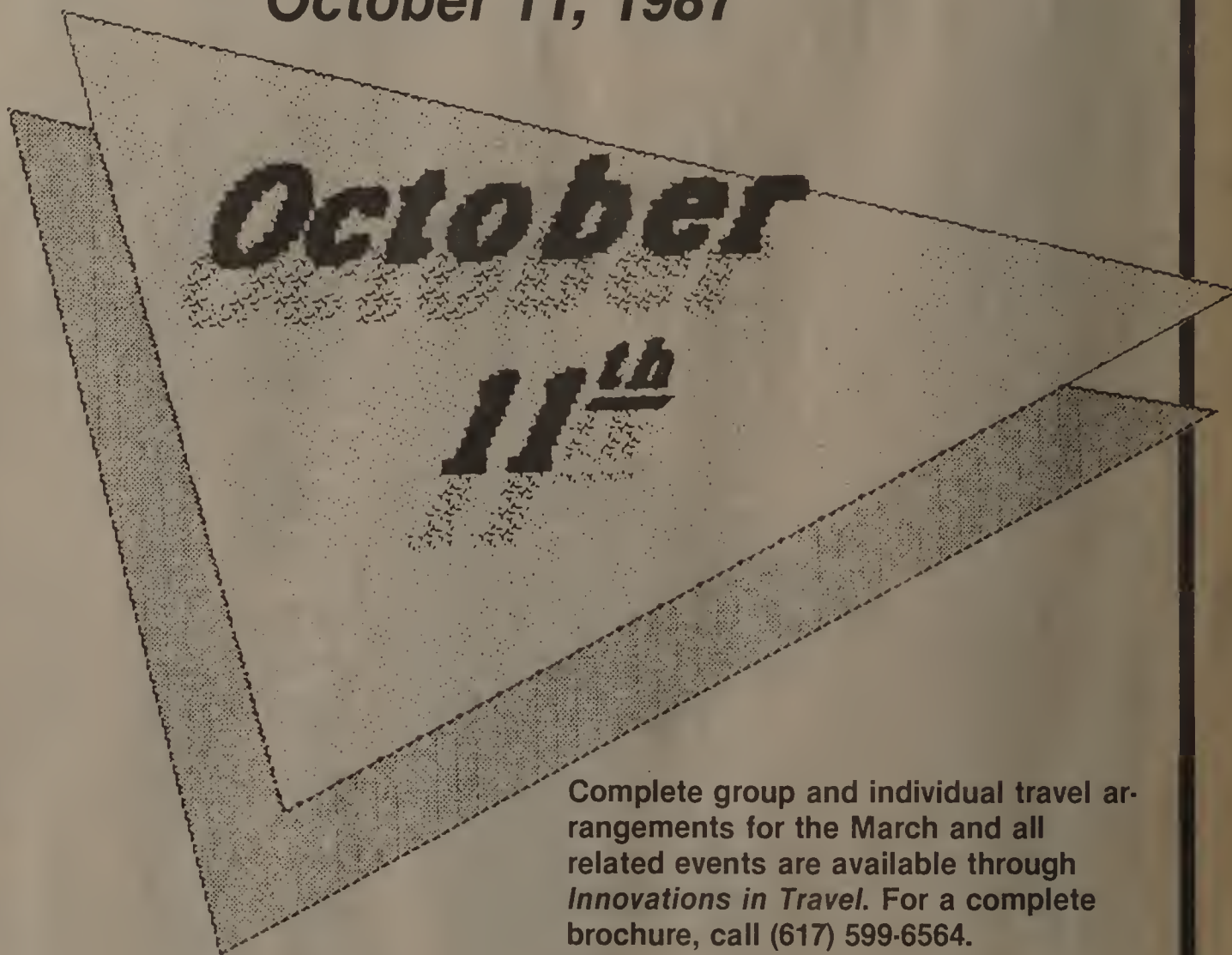
More dyke music

If you can't make it to Michigan but you've got some hot lesbian tunes you think the world should hear, send a cassette with 3 or 4 of your best to Labrys Records, P.O. Box 174 Tolland, CT 06084. By October 31, they hope to have a new recording project chosen.

Calendar compiled by Barnaby Fisher

Gay Community News

Come be a part of
**The March on Washington
for Lesbian and Gay Rights
October 11, 1987**



Complete group and individual travel arrangements for the March and all related events are available through *Innovations in Travel*. For a complete brochure, call (617) 599-6564.

**Don't be left at the station!
Make your travel plans now!**

Air, train and bus transportation available. For information about subsidies, or to help with March organizing, call or write the Massachusetts March Office, c/o *Gay Community News*, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116. (617) 426-5605

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